EARLY CALIFORNIA SHIPS.

Commerce Grew In Ploneer Days of the Golden State.

The first European vessel to enter port of San Francisco of which ere is any record was the Eagle, in 816 commanded by Captain William Davis. She sailed from Boston via e Sandwich Islands and Alaska. She erried an assortment of goods which ere a revelation to the natives, and seir garments of skins and hides were mbstituted by the clothing of civilizaion. Payments were made in hides, allow, soap and fish. The Eagle then ecame engaged in the sea otter trade und was very successful, as otters were plentiful in San Francisco bay and all along the coast. She made three trips, netting about \$25,000 on each trip. This stimulated others, and his discovery no doubt gave an impetus to commerce which made this port known to the world.

Commerce in those days of manna was carried on in what might be termed a "free and easy" manner. On many articles the duty was 100 per ent, which practically amounted to confiscation or made smuggling necessary in self defense. The Mexican officials generally opened the door. Frequently vessels were permitted to pass Monterey, the port of entry, going to Yerba Buena and, after selling as much of the cargo as possible, to return to Monterey for entry and disposs of the remainder.

The shippers were not sworn as to the value of the cargo. They gave fictitious invoices and by this means would get off on the payment of \$5,000 on a \$20,000 cargo.

It became so customary to swindle the government as scarcely to excite comment, except in cases where goods were concealed in false linings of the vessels and the government officials were outwitted.

URIC ACID IN THE SYSTEM.

A Medical Opinion on This Foe to Health and Life.

Haig holds that the man of average weight elaborates twelve grains of uric acid in twenty-four hours, and woe betide him if he does not excrete the full amount with due celerity. A little retained uric acid will give rise to headache, lethargy and mental depression. A greater retention will give rise to arthritis, lumbago and sciatica. The aric acid miser will end his days through bronchitis, Bright's disease, poplexy, diabetes or cancer. Man annot avoid his fate and cease being uric acid producer. He can avoid, some degree, swallowing the wretchstuff. What he cannot avoid swalwing he can, with care, excrete. If an had been wise and had continued live where he belongs, near the andered from the tropics, he must be at one must follow to be healthy and re long: First, swallow no uric acid d pass out each day regularly and al abomination), by eating freely of otatoes (especially in cold weather) od by avoiding fruits. Bicarbonate sodium, night and morning, for peole who live in a climate similar to ondon's is a fine habit. In addition all this, it "is also advisable to sethe the proper distribution of time etween bodily and mental exertion and to dispense with dependence on tonies, stimulants and bracing climates."-New York Medical Journal.

Water Thieves.

Water thieves are not unique: Their prototypes existed at least as long ago as 1479. At that time a Londoner wrote: "This yere a wax chandler in Flete strete had bi craft perced a pipe of the condit withlune the grounde, and o conveled the water into his selar; Therefor he was jugid to ride thrugh the Citee with a condit upon his edde." There were other difficulties 00. A century later (1574) it is reorded that owing to a sudden shower f rain the water in the Dowgate chanel 'had such a swift course that a lad, finding to have leapt over it, was aken by the feet and borne down with wiolence of that narrow stream till came against a cart wheel that stood the water gate, before which time was drowned and stark dead."

The Sun's Corona. Thus far we know the corons of the In to be a sort of outer envelope, so delding as from the intense solar ght and beat that it may be said ithout exaggerating that the sun has ever really been studied comprehenvely. Within the corona is an ocean gas 5,000 miles deep, stained a ruby of by the crimson bluze of hydrogen. ballon of flame leap from this roddy sees and more.

the His Last Logs. The year buy rags and bones?" tion, correlately." Then put me in the scales, will An Artist's Mistake,

Danton, the celebrated caricatariet, had a wonderful power of modeling from memory. After one long look at DR. DEVERE B. MORRIS, his subject he could go to his studie and make a bust quite perfect in its resemblance.

One day a young man came to him, saying that his sister was ill and about to die and that, although the family wished her bust modeled, they dared not ascite her by mentioning it. Would be undertake to reproduce her features after seeing her once? Danton agreed, and next day the brother informed his sister that he intended to present her with some jewels and specimens for her approval.

Danton brought in the jewels and, office. going home, modeled a bust of striking resemblance. Next year an old FERDINAND BAYER, gentleman, the father of the young woman, came to order a bust of the brother, who also had died. This, too, was a marvelous success.

The result of such planning, however, was not always as satisfactory to his patrons as in these cases. A gentleman who could not persuade his a list of what you offer for sale. 2142m. wife to sit asked Danton to enter a certain omnibus one day and fix in his memory the features of the lady opposite him.

He did so, modeled a beautiful bust and sent it home. It proved, however, to be not the mistress, but the maid, who had also taken the trip in the omnibus.

Strength of Insects and Animals. A series of experiments made to test the jaw force and pulling and lifting | DR. J. H. ALDERMAN, strength of various kinds of insects gives some curious points for study. It has been found that a cockchafer can draw fourteen times his own weight and the common honeybee thirty times. From this it may be argued that, weight for weight, each of the above named insects is twenty-one and thirty times respectively stronger than the horse, whose strength, as a rule, is taxed to its utmost in drawing its own weight as a "dead load." A scientist once experimented with a small hard shelled beetle by putting him under a common table tumbler. The little creature, not more than onethird of an inch in length, was able to move the glass in any direction. After the experiment had been satisfactorily made both the tumbler and the bug were weighed, whereupon it was found that the little Hercules had lifted 960 times its own weight! He did not carry the weight, of course, but caused it to make some lively motions.

Fly Wheel Insurance.

Fly wheel insurance is almost pure mathematics. When a wheel is revolved at a high enough speed the centrifugal force exceeds the centripetal and the wheel flies apart. Solid cast mator, and had fed on fruit and nuts | iron explodes when the speed at the might have been well. But, having rim is roughly three miles a minute. A thick rim explodes just as easily as a se or perish. Here are the rules thin one of the same material. Wood CALIFORNIA, explodes at a greater speed, jointed iron at a less. The underwriter allows a rim speed of a mile a minute, onemetually all that is formed in the third the explosion rate, as a safe limit dy. Second, excretion of uric acid for solid iron wheels. This permits a \$44.70 by be obtained by clothing warmly. two foot pulley wheel sixteen revoluavoiding exposure to cold in every tions a second, while it keeps a sixteen ay (the morning cold tub is an espe- foot fly wheel down to two. A jointed \$51.60 wheel is allowed still less. The underwriter has only to name the number of revolutions he authorises and to proportion his premium to the size of the wheel. The larger the wheel, of course, the more destructive its explosion .-Leslie's Magazine.

A Meerschaum Mine.

"Meerschaum is mined like conl," said a pipe dealer. "It is a soft, soaplike stone, and in Asia Minor its mining is an important industry. The crude meerschaum is called hamtash. It is yellowish white in color and a red clay coat or skin envelops it. The blocks cost from \$25 to \$200 a cart load. They are soft enough to cut with a knife. These blocks in summer are dried by exposure to the sun. In winter a heated room is necessary. Finally the meerschaum blocks are sorted into twelve grades, wrapped in cotton and packed in cases with the greatest care. The bulk of all this meerschaum goes to Vienna. There the best pipe makers in the world live."-Philadelphia Bulletin.

Lamb's Quaint Humor.

Charles Lamb once said that he hated a certain man.

"Do you know him?" Lamb was "No," he answered.

"Let me introduce you to him," said

"No," responded Lamb humorously, for if I shall know him I am sure I shall stop hating him."-Philadelphia North American.

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